

Turkish Delight.... Eventually!

ICOD Director Brian McIntyre ventured to Turkey this year on holiday, and although his initial experience was problematic, he eventually had a worthwhile stay...

This year I went on holiday to Marmaris in Turkey with my parents. They had been there before and came back saying how great they thought the place was. When they booked up for this summer, I had not arranged my own holiday yet, so I contacted the agent who assured me the hotel (Sun Love) and facilities were accessible and I booked up too.

You can never be sure that somewhere is accessible, even if told so, and on arrival I was disappointed to find this was the case. There was a small but steep ramp into the reception, not wide enough for my wheelchair. When we got into the reception I noticed that there were more steps out to the pool and room areas

but no ramps and no lifts. While the receptionist was allocating our rooms we discovered that their accessible rooms were on the 1st Floor! When asked how they could call this accessible, they said they would carry the chair and its occupant up and down the stairs when required, not my idea of an accessible room!

We discussed the situation with our holiday rep, and were eventually moved to another hotel, the Blue Bays. Just from the outside you could tell that this had far better access. My room and almost all of the facilities at the hotel were accessible and when something was not, the staff did all they could to help make it so.

I was glad I'd arranged the hire of a powered wheelchair as this helped me make the most of the location. There is an 8 mile paved and tiled walkway along the seafront, from the Marina round to the village of Icmeler, which I



Brian enjoying the sunshine on the seafront in Marmaris with his Dad.

would recommend for the scenery alone. The area has a wealth of natural beauty and history, including a castle said to date back at least 5000 years. In addition, the hospitality and friendship of its locals was second to none, and there are lots of very good pubs and clubs and some good eateries along the seafront.

Despite initial problems I had a great holiday and think Marmaris is a great place to visit.

Anyone interested in hiring a powered wheelchair if going to Marmaris should contact Emma Smith at Access Centres Turkey (ACT) email: info@accesscentres.com or visit www.accesscentres.com

Accessible Eateries

Over the past few weeks staff and directors of ICOD Ltd. have been visiting eating-places in Inverclyde to determine whether or not they are accessible, particularly for people with mobility impairments.

One reason for the work being undertaken was that when a wheelchair user visited a local restaurant to make a booking for a meal for him and friends, he enquired about accessible toilet facilities.

The restaurateur apparently told him that whilst there were no facilities on his premises, he could use the facilities of a café some 200-300 yards down the road and that when he came back he would reheat his dinner for him. Needless to say there was no booking made!

It is hoped that when the survey results are published this will help everyone find an appropriate venue in Inverclyde. Those places that don't quite come up to standard will hopefully review their premises and make them more accessible.

ICOD Training

Funded by Inverclyde Alliance, ICOD provides Disability Awareness Training and British Sign Language courses (to Level 1). Our awareness training gives participants a knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act, planning an accessible event and guidance on how to best assist people with a range of impairments. The courses are free to staff, volunteers and board members in voluntary sector groups. The calendar for this year's training is below.

Disability Awareness Training

Each session lasts 3 hours, 10am - 1pm

September 12th 2007
October 10th 2007
November 14th 2007
January 16th 2008
February 13th 2008
March 12th 2008

British Sign Language Courses

Beginners Course

Monday Evenings, 6.30-9pm, Craighend Resource Centre. 12 weeks, 1st October - 17th December.

Level 1 Course

Monday Evenings, 6.30-9pm, Craighend Resource Centre. 20 weeks, 14th January - 16th June.

For more information or to book a place please contact the ICOD office on: **Telephone:** 01475 732700, **Textphone:** 01475 732995, **email:** enquiries@icod.org.uk

ICOD Ltd A.G.M.

Inverclyde Council On Disability Ltd are holding their AGM on Tuesday 28th August 2007 in the saloon of the Greenock Town Hall starting at 6.30pm.

(A loop system, creche and sign language interpreters will be available on the night as well as refreshments)

Our guest speaker this

year will be David Walker of the Inverclyde Community Health Partnership.

We will also welcome nominations to join the ICOD Ltd Board of directors, please phone 732700, textphone 732995 or email enquiries@icod.org.uk for a nomination form and also to book a place for the creche.

Shopmobility Update

A Busy Summer...

Summertime has proven to be another busy time for us at Shopmobility, particularly for long term hires, not only on our Manual Wheelchairs but also for our Energy Efficient Scooter, which many people have hired to enjoy day trips and holidays. We hope in the near future to purchase more of these scooters, for any more information on how to hire these types of equipment please call the office on **01475 732600**.

Inverclyde and Beyond...

Inverclyde Council on Disability is delighted to announce that the scooters which we donated to Shopmobility in Dunoon are now operational. The new service is located at the Pier Head, and we are pleased to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Dunoon. To contact them call **01369 706 696**. There has been no further news on the outstation at Greenock Cut, as they are still finishing off the final touches, we hope to be able to report in the next Linkability.

By Yon Bonnie Banks

On Sunday 29th July some nineteen members and carers set off to ramble the



Some of our intrepid service users before we headed off to Dumbarton for our ramble.

cycle path from Dumbarton to Loch Lomond Shores at Balloch.

The weather was kind with only a few minor spots of rain during the ramble itself but thunderous rain just after we had boarded the buses to return to Greenock. Someone was obviously looking after us.

The route took us along the banks of the river Leven and was a well-surfaced path for most of it. There were thrills and spills as we crossed a couple of small cattle grids with more than the scooters being shaken up. Worst of all there were no toilets until we reached Balloch with a huge sigh of relief!

We really were in the countryside for the first 2 miles or so with not a house to be seen and some took the opportunity

to pick wild flowers along the way. Later we skirted Renton, Bonhill and Alexandria finally arriving at Loch Lomond Shores at around 2.20pm.

There was Folk music and French market at the Shores and we managed to grab a bite to eat and do a bit of shopping before returning.

Pete Savino said, "It was a great day out and thanks should be given to everyone involved".

Finally a big thank you to all our Service Users who have paid their membership fee and for their continued support. Anyone with a little spare time and would like to contribute towards our outings can contact our office for more information on our Social Group.

Events Listings

ICOD Events

Deaf Issues Meeting

**Wednesday 8th August,
7-9pm**, Inverclyde
Community Care Forum,
12 Clyde Square, Greenock
What are the Issues for
Deaf People in
Inverclyde? Come along
and have your say. Guest
Speaker Paul McCusker,
Sports Co-ordinator, Deaf
Connections. If you
would like to know about
future meetings please

let us know on: email -
deafissues@icod.org.uk
or textphone - **01475
732995** or telephone -
01475 732700



Subtitled and Audio Described Cinema Screenings

For up-to-date listings for
Subtitled and Audio Described
Screenings visit:
www.yourlocalcinema.com.
Subtitled screenings are also
listed on the Scottish Council
on Deafness website:
www.scod.org.uk/calendar.htm

Stop Press!

ICOD understand that the
proposed replacement
Post Office in W.H.
Smiths in Greenock will
be located on the first
floor.

ICOD will be following
this up to ensure that the
new post office is
accessible for all, and
responding to the current
consultation. We will
include an update of the
situation in the next issue
of Linkability.

Dear Editor.

*Of late I have found it more
and more difficult to get
about, and even trying to
find a place near to home to
park the car is difficult. I
have noticed disabled
parking spaces marked out in
Inverclyde and wondered if I
could get one too?*

Dear Reader,

To help you get round
about town it is possible to
get a blue badge, which
would entitle you to park

Your Letters...

nearer shops etc. If you
are on the Higher rate of
the Mobility part of
Disability Living Allowance
you can get one
automatically, otherwise
you will require supporting
information from your
doctor. More details and
an application form can be
obtained from Inverclyde
Centre for Independent
Living. Tel **714350** for
details.

To get a disabled space
near your home you will
have to apply to Inverclyde
Council Roads and
Transportation Service Tel
714835 where details of
the procedure can be
obtained. The process can
take 9 months to a year,
and please remember that
the space is for use by
anyone holding a Blue
Badge and is not reserved
for your own use.



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